

Security Threats in the 21st Century

Professor Colin S. Gray

University of Reading, UK
November 2006

Report Documentation Page			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
<p>Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.</p>				
1. REPORT DATE 01 NOV 2006	2. REPORT TYPE N/A	3. DATES COVERED -		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Security Threats in the 21st Century			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
			5b. GRANT NUMBER	
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)			5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
			5e. TASK NUMBER	
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of Reading, UK			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release, distribution unlimited				
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES See also ADM002075., The original document contains color images.				
14. ABSTRACT				
15. SUBJECT TERMS				
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UU	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 15
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified		

Purpose

- Identify the principal threats to national and international security
- Examine each in the contexts of the others. Threats come in bunches.

The ‘‘Forseeable Future’’ Isn’t!

The future ain’t what it used to be.

Yogi Berra

It is impossible to predict the future, and all attempts to do so in any detail appear ludicrous within a few years.

Arthur C. Clarke

Nothing dates so rapidly as today’s tomorrow.

Anon.

Security Threats

1. Return of great power conflict
2. Climate change
3. Uneven development
4. Overpopulation, migration, pandemics

Security Threats

5. Resource shortages: water, food, energy
6. Nuclear proliferation and nuclear wars
7. Religiously motivated terrorism

Threat 1

Great Power Conflict

- Rise of China
- Rise of India
- Return of Russia
- EU-Europe and NATO
- Japan's dilemma
- Changing alliances?

Threat 2

Climate Change

- Uncertainty
- An old cause of new wars
- Test of “the world community”
- Why this is a threat we cannot manage
- Probable consequences

Threat 3

Uneven Development

- Problems of modernization
- Die-hard resistance to modernity
- Globalization and exploitation
- Moral issues
- Strategic consequences

Threat 4

Overpopulation, Migration, Pandemics

- Climate change means overpopulation
- Mass migrations are unstoppable
- Migrations mean conflict and war
- Pandemic conditions

Threat 5

Resource Shortages

- Water
- Food
- Energy
- Land

Threat 6

Another Nuclear Century

- Nuclear proliferation is unstoppable
- There will be nuclear wars
- Consequences very uncertain

Threat 7

Terrorism

- The last and least major threat
- Al Qaeda is in decline
- Religiously motivated terrorism is a problem of modernity for Islam
- Only Islamic moderates can beat fanatics
- There is no single, dominant solution

Today - A Golden Age?

- So much for the very bad news
- The very good news is that most of these threats have yet to mature
 - China is still only rising
 - Climate change hasn't gone critical

Today - A Golden Age?

- Resource competition is tough but not yet bloody
- Nuclear wars have yet to occur
- Al Qaeda is running out of steam
- So, things could be a lot worse

The American Role

- Still the only superpower
- The essential guardian of world order
- Must protect its honor, reputation for acting effectively
- Requires military excellence in regular and irregular warfare